



With Sincere Gratitude to
General and Mrs. Robert C. Mathis
and the Eagle Mount Volunteers
from friends and classmates
of Timothy J. Vogel



'Band of brothers' reunites in Red Lodge

Tim Vogel, resident of Beartooth Hospital and Health Center's long-term care facility, hosted an illustrious group of friends Sept. 1 and 2. Ten fellow graduates of West Point, who now hail from cities all over the US, convened in Red Lodge to spend time with their beloved football buddy "Timmer."

According to the group's informally-appointed Information Officer, John Seymour, the glue that holds these 1965 graduates together has three ingredients. "First," he says, "we all graduated from West Point. You go through kind of crucible there, and the experience stays with you. Second, we were all recruited by West Point to play football, and our interest in football has never waned. In fact, that's how this group began reuniting on a regular basis — we started having Superbowl parties. Third, we all experienced the Vietnam era. Each one of these guys is war hero in his own right."

Tim Vogel was at the gates of the Hanoi POW camp to greet his longtime friend, Bob Jones, when Bob was released after nearly six years of imprisonment. This is an example of the loving companionship that has, for these gentlemen, lasted over 40 years.



Front row, L to R: Don Parcels, Tim Vogel, Dennis Lewis, Chuck Shaw; Back row, L to R: Chuck Pfeiffer, Bob Jones, Dave Kuhn, Rollie Stichweh, Ray Paske, John Seymour, Bruce Weeter.

BHHC Social Worker Becky Mitchell describes Tim's reaction to the visit as "two thumbs up." She added, "Just seeing the expression on his face and the joy that comes from these guys getting together is wonderful."

Dennis Lewis, a resident of Youngstown, Ohio, coordinates a lot of the group's activities. Earlier

this summer, he and John Seymour visited Tim Vogel and proposed a Labor-Day visit for the entire group. "The response was overwhelming," says John, "so here we are." The group has had a strong affinity through thick and thin, he adds. "We're all over 60 but when we get together, we feel like we're 21."

Another group member,

Bruce Weeter, describes them as a true "band of brothers." As staff members joined them on the deck at Beartooth Hospital and listened to jokes, guitar-strumming, and jovial reminiscing, it was evident to everyone that this brotherhood will be supporting one another and having fun together for a long time to come.

Tim Vogel's 'Band of Brothers' from '65 travel to Red Lodge, September 2004, to meet with their buddy and teammate. Front, left-to-right: Don Parcells, Tim (with black 'A' Army hat), Dennis Lewis (black cowboy hat), John Seymour; Rear: Chuck Pfeiffer, Bob Jones, Ray Paske, Rollie Stichweh, Dave Kuhn, Chuck Shaw, Bruce Weeter.



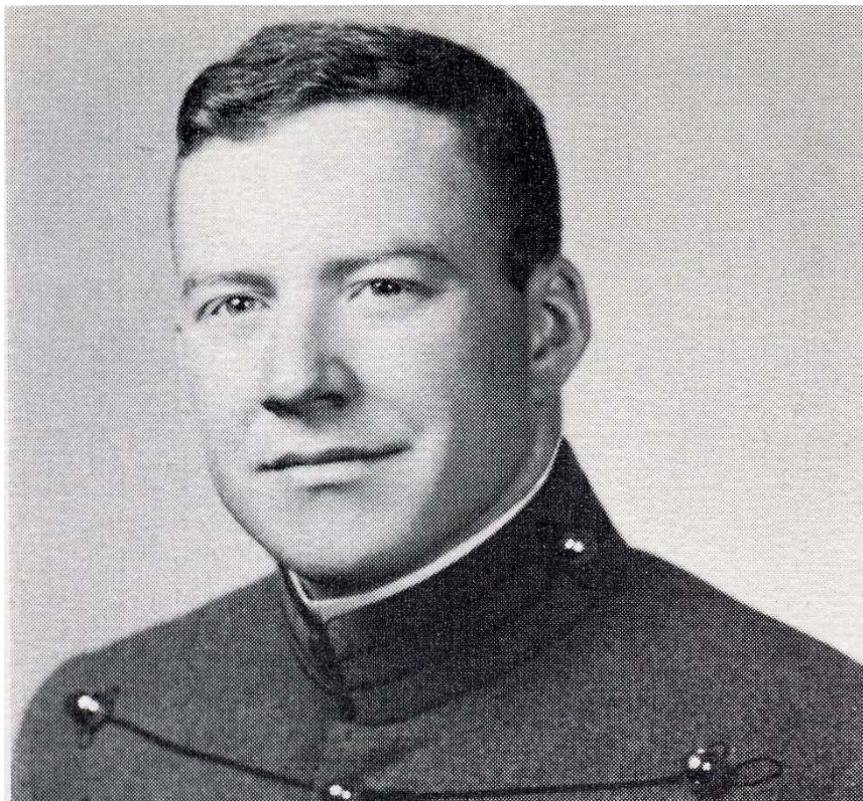
Tim (lower left corner), Dave Kuhn, Rollie Stichweh, Bob Jones (former USAF) Beartooth Hospital, Red Lodge, Montana, Sept 2004



Chuck Pfeiffer, '65, travels from New York to visit Tim in May, 2005



Timothy J. Vogel - Annapolis Navy family, USMA '65 grad, Navy fighter pilot.



Left to right: Rollie Stichweh, Tim Vogel, Dennis Lewis, class of 1965
Beartooth Hospital, Red Lodge, Montana, September, 2004



Red Lodge Mountain Ski Resort, in the Beartooth Mountains just above Red Lodge



Tim's 'Band of Brothers', along with a significant contribution from yet another West Point grad from a different class, helped to buy him a powered chair. He promptly got in trouble flying combat maneuvers down the hospital hall...



"Where's my 'Heads-Up Display' ??".



These two photos show Tim Vogel (USMA '65) being helped from Eagle Mount ski chair into his own wheel chair, after skiing at Red Lodge Mountain. The Eagle Mount (Billings) volunteers then fasten his wheelchair to the floor of their bus and take their skiers back down the hill to Beartooth Hospital in Red Lodge, Montana.



Tim Vogel (USMA '65) approaches bottom of ski run at Red Lodge Mtn, MT with 'Coach', from Eagle Mount Billings – Jan 2005



Here's a closer look a second later, Eagle Mount Coach waving. Tim Vogel ('65) is from a Navy family; two brothers went to Annapolis, Tim chose West Point. A decorated carrier pilot, Tim was first in class of '65 to make O5 rank (Commander).



Eagle Mount coach guides Tim Vogel back over to base of ski lift at Red Lodge Mtn. Tim – a retired Navy fighter pilot, has always loved to ski, so this is special for him.



Tim is helped by volunteers from his wheelchair onto (and off of) the Eagle Mount ski chair. He is driven up and down the hill from Beartooth Hospital in Red Lodge, with his wheelchair locked to the floor of Eagle Mount's bus.



[Watch the video of Tim Skiing](#)



March 14, 2007

General Robert C. Mathis, USAF (Retired)
USMA Class of 1948
Bozeman, Montana

Dear General Mathis,

The many friends and 1965 USMA classmates of Timothy J. Vogel would like to extend our deepest thanks to you and your Eagle Mount volunteers for the loving care and help provided Tim that has allowed him to go skiing during the past few winters. We know that Tim feels enormous gratitude to Eagle Mount since, as a fighter pilot like you, he loves speed and outdoor sports.

While at West Point, 'Timmer' played a number of sports, including football, and became an All-American lacrosse player. Following in his father's footsteps, after graduation he took a commission in the United States Navy and became a war-decorated carrier pilot. For the past several years, he has been almost completely paralyzed and required long-term hospitalization. Originally in the Washington, D.C. area, Tim was moved to Beartooth Hospital in Red Lodge when his supporting family members moved to that city. From this point, Eagle Mount and its heroic volunteers have made it possible for Tim to go skiing each winter at Red Lodge Mountain, just above the town. Some photographs of Tim and the Eagle Mount volunteers are included here, as well as a CD which has some brief 'movies' of them in action. Also included is some information relating to the Class of 1965. For example, many of Timmer's football teammates – the team that beat Roger Staubach's Navy team his (and our) First Class year – frequently make the pilgrimage to Montana to visit Tim.

All of Tim's classmates and friends join in expressing our gratitude to you and the wonderful organization founded by you and your wife. Tim cannot speak but makes it obvious that he feels the same. Thank the Good Lord for your help.

Sincerely,

Clair F. Gill, Major General, U.S. Army, Retired
President
Strength and Drive Class of 1965